

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
November 6, 2013

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (104/114)
Katherine Ariens (26/28)
Maria Greenberg (40/44)
Paul Bigness (4/8)
John Hitzel (39/40)
Fred Pazona (26/32)
Roger LePage (3/3)

Present

John Hitzel
Maria Greenberg
Katherine Ariens
William Dryburgh
Fred Pazona
Roger LePage

County Representatives

Tommy Scott, Director
Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

Ron Mack

Call to Order

Chair Bill Dryburgh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Chairman announced opportunity for public input on agenda items

- Ron Mack stated that he was concerned about lack of bike trails and paths, which was not on the agenda. Mr. Mack waited until the end of the meeting to make his comments.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 4, 2013 and the October 2, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved, with the addition of Commissioner Doherty being present at the September meeting.

3. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – Golden Hippo Radio Show, John volunteered to attend and speak at one of the shows. Also discussed was the Tippecanoe Mud Run; Thanksgiving Camp, High School swim meets, and two new concession stands.

4. New Business

- Public's Right to Speak
 - Memo from County Attorney was discussed. A new blurb will be mentioned at the beginning of the meeting by the Chairman.
- Discussion of the 2014 meeting schedule
 - Schedule was approved with minor updates (attached).

5. Old Business

- Alcohol in Parks, Synthetic Drug Ordinance
 - Discussion and consensus regarding the new sign; moving forward with proposed design.

- Katherine Ariens mentioned that at the Sports Council meeting two months ago, alcohol use was discussed at Franz Ross Park. Homeless people were gathering at the gazebo and using the facilities to shower. It was frightening for the children and parents to have them hanging around the field.
 - Commissioner Doherty talked about the homeless being a huge concern in Englewood. One third of the homeless are veterans and that number is expected to grow to one half; this item will be on the agenda for the Commissioners joint meeting with Sarasota County.
 - Electronic cigarettes were discussed. Maureen Broderick mentioned that it is a problem at recreation facilities. If participants are using the electronic cigarettes, they are asked to go outside.
 - Tommy Scott mentioned that we are working on this; the plan is to add this topic as an agenda item on the BCC agenda.
- Cricket Tournament
 - Katherine Ariens will re-schedule the appointment with the doctor and other representatives who are trying to organize a cricket tournament.

6. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council's next meeting is set for October 9th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room.
 - Maria Greenberg reported that she was not there last month.
 - Katherine Ariens talked about the Challenger Program for special needs children and trying to incorporate these children into the league, which was discussed at the Youth Sports Council two months ago.
 - Fall ball is starting ... the practice screens are not being used, they not putting away equipment; the light control box is very hard to see when it gets dark. Youth Sports Council members wanted us to know they are very grateful for the taxpayers paying for the lights.
 - Regarding the dimly lit control box, Roger LePage mentioned that there is a plan to bring all electrical controls to the concession stand.
 - Dogs are a problem at the fields, as owners let them off lead and they are chasing the kids on the fields.
 - The director will research.

7. Member Issues

- Fred Pazona passed out a handout to members. Tommy Scott stated that he is doing some process improvements on closures and postings of hours, identifying lanes, availability of the swimming pools.
- Roger LePage noted that at O'Donnell field at night, three quarters of the parking area is very dark, which is a safety issue. Tommy Scott mentioned that the parking lights are due for replacement, but not in the next two year approved cycle, preventative maintenance currently being done as well as an energy audit is being conducted.
- John Hitzel commented on the Charlotte Assembly; a lot of park issues came up with suggestions made for improvements. He feels the county should purchase the property by the bridge on the North side, so that the citizens could enjoy the waterfront. There was talk that the soil on this property is contaminated with chemicals.
- Commissioner Doherty said that Debrah Forester, who oversees the CRA, should work on coming up with a coordinated recommendation between the CRA and Community Services, which makes sense for this property. Tommy Scott will confer with Kelly Shoemaker and

Debrah Forester.

8. Director's Report – Tommy Scott

- Update on Parks Master Plan
 - Scope of Services for Needs Assessment phase was distributed. University of Florida is ready, contacting FGCU to see if they can pick up some of the pieces.

9. Citizen Input

- Ron Mack, resident of Port Charlotte, noticed in Florida, the lack of pedestrian right of ways, sidewalks and bike paths. Safety is a great concern.
- John Hitzel mentioned that Edgewater is going to be widened, with sidewalks.
- Commissioner Doherty mentioned that most of the sidewalks installed were funded by the one cent sales tax. MSBU monies can be used for sidewalks.

10. Announcements

None

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandroek, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator